

MAYOR'S REPORT

MARCH 2010

The month of February certainly brought some challenges to City Hall. With the unrelenting snow, our Service Department worked tirelessly to keep the streets clean of snow, yet adhere to our Salt Conservation Program that is currently underway to save City funds and adhere to EPA guidelines. I hope the month of March will provide us a break from the weather so our residents can be safe and the salt trucks can stop making visits at City Hall.

After much consideration, I requested Council 's reconsideration of the proposed city income tax increase that was set to go to the voters in May. Given the current economic climate and the strain this would have put on the community and our businesses, I have asked Council and Administration to go back to the "drawing board", hoping to review finances again, without sacrificing resident safety and services. I have recommended cancellation of both Summer Camp and the Fall Corn Fest. While both of these programs provided entertainment and camaraderie for our residents, they are programs we must forego to try to meet our goals. These are two very minor cutbacks, but hope to be the start of our analysis to further streamline our expenses. To date, we have made many adjustments, including consolidation of employees and services, but I know our work is cut out for us as we move forward and try to weather the storm.

We have had the challenge of some burglaries occurring in our city recently , but be assured our Police Department is working very hard to put an end to this crime spree to keep us safe.

I am pleased to report Republic Services will be our vendor for our Citywide Trash and Recycle Program beginning April 1st. All of our residents will receive a bin for trash and a bin for recycle at the Standard Price Schedule, unless they have notified Republic Services Customer Service Department that they will be on the Senior Price Schedule or a Bag Customer with the new program. We have completed one public meeting and anticipate one more public meeting to communicate all the details of the program to our residents. This will ensure a smooth transition as we move forward for this program which we are proud to have in the City of Willoughby Hills.

We continue to do good deeds through our W.H.I.S.P.E.R. Program and are happy to be able to do some good deeds for our seniors in need of assistance. During the month of March, we will continue to assist our seniors with their federal and state income tax preparation with the help of our AARP volunteers.

We will be serving our Pancake Breakfasts during the month of March with the help of our Recreation Commission and the Willoughby Hills Lions Club. I hope all of you will come out and enjoy the company of your neighbors and friends as we celebrate spring just around the corner (I promise!).